

Welcome to the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food Organic Certification Program

The following state statutes and rules, and Federal regulations govern the certification program:

- ❖ NH RSA (Revised Statutes Annotated) Chapter 426 for Farm Products;
- ❖ NH PART Agr 910 CERTIFICATION OF PROCESSORS AND HANDLERS OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED PLANT, ANIMAL, FOOD, OR FIBER COMMODITIES;
- ❖ NH PART Agr 911 CERTIFICATION OF ORGANICALLY PRODUCED PLANT, ANIMAL, FOOD OR FIBER COMMODITIES;
- ❖ USDA Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) 7 CFR Part 205 NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM; Subparts A through G.

To view and print NH Agr 910 & Agr 911, click on www.agriculture.nh.gov/rules/index.htm. Scroll down to “Quality Assurance,” and click on the relevant laws or rules.

To access the USDA National Organic Program regulations, click on: www.ams.usda.gov/nop.

NOTE: IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO READ AND UNDERSTAND THE RELEVANT STATE & FEDERAL REGULATIONS PERTINENT TO THE TYPE OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION FOR WHICH CERTIFICATION IS BEING REQUESTED.

To apply for organic certification:

- 1) Download the relevant application forms, and other required forms for your type of production;
- 2) Submit the completed application;
- 3) Submit other required documentation; which may include:
 - “Landowner Statement,” if you lease land;
 - Crop maps from previous year’s production;
 - “Cattle History” forms;
 - “Product Profile Sheets” for processed foods; or
 - Copies of current Organic Certificates for organic ingredients.
- 4) Submit the appropriate fees. To view the certification and inspection fees, click on the relevant “**Certification and Inspection Fee**” schedules for your type of production.
- 5) Certification fees and Inspection fees are required to be submitted with applications for Crops and Livestock. NOTE: *For Processors & handlers, only the Certification fee is required at time of application submission; inspection and mileage fee charges are billed after the inspection and reports are completed.*
- 6) Make payments out to: TREASURER, STATE OF NH.
- 7) Mail or deliver to: **Division of Regulatory Services, 25 Capitol St., PO Box 2042, Concord, NH, 03302-2042.**

Application submission deadlines:

MAPLE PRODUCTS- February 1st of each year.

CROPS- March 1st of each year. *Applications must be submitted by the close of business-4PM-to the Div. of Regulatory Svcs.*

LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, EGGS, AND PROCESSORS/HANDLER applications may be submitted throughout the year.

CONTINUATION OF CERTIFICATION:

- Per Agr 910.05, Agr 911.06, and NOP Section 205.406, to continue certification, a certified operation must **annually** pay the certification and inspection fees, and submit an updated *organic production or handling system plan-application*-to NHDAMF. This information shall also include an update on the correction of minor non-compliances previously identified by NHDAMF.
- Once certified, an operation’s organic certification continues in effect until surrendered by the organic operation, or suspended or revoked by the certifying agent. (See NOP Section 205.404(c)).

If you intend NOT to renew your organic certification, you **MUST** notify this office in writing. Otherwise, a Notice of Non-compliance will be issued to you citing violation of NOP Rule Section 204.406, *Continuation of Certification*. Written notification can be sent via email to: runcles@agr.state.nh.us.

Please contact the Division of Regulatory Services at 271-3685 with questions or comments.

Richard B. Uncles, Director

Victoria M. Smith, Agriculture Inspector

Janis L. Conner, Agriculture Inspector

Thomas Sloan, Agriculture Inspector

Debra Bunn, Organic Processing and Handling Inspector